

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action, at page 2, notes certain requirements for the abstract of the disclosure. Applicants submit herewith on a separate page, a replacement abstract limited to a single paragraph and containing several minor changes in terminology.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Brady et al. U.S. Patent 6,201,474 ("Brady"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Media storage systems or automated backup systems are commonly used to store data cartridges and to retrieve desired data cartridges so that computer-readable data may be written to or read from the data cartridges by means of a read/write drive. Each data cartridge may include a read/writeable electronic or IC memory unit capable of storing a substantial quantity of data cartridge-related information. Often, a user may wish to view on a display the information or selected parts thereof stored in the IC memory unit. A drawback of present media storage systems is that for the user to view the contents of the IC memory unit, the user must insert the data cartridge into the media storage system so that the contents of the IC memory unit can be read by the reader that is located within the system. This is a time consuming process. The present invention permits a user to quickly retrieve and display the contents of the IC memory unit without having to load the data cartridge into the media storage system. (Specification, page 7, lines 20-30.)

Claim 1 states as follows:

1. In a media storage system including an enclosure having a user-accessible surface, an apparatus for retrieving data cartridge-related information from a memory unit mounted to a data cartridge in relationship to a surface of the housing of the cartridge, the apparatus comprising:

a registration area on the user-accessible surface of said enclosure, said registration area being configured to be engaged by said surface of the data cartridge housing in registration with said registration area; and

a reader mounted to said media storage system for receiving from said memory unit a signal containing said data cartridge-related information when said surface of the data cartridge housing is held in engagement with said registration area.

Independent method claim 10 sets forth:

10. A method of transferring data cartridge-related information between an IC memory unit mounted to a data cartridge and an IC memory unit reader mounted to a media storage system, the IC memory unit being mounted in relationship to a surface of said cartridge and the IC memory unit reader being mounted in relationship to a user-accessible surface of said media storage system, the method comprising the steps of:

manually positioning the data cartridge so as to hold said surface of said data cartridge into registered engagement with a registration area on the user-accessible surface of said media storage system; and

transferring said information between the IC memory unit and the IC memory unit reader.

The Brady patent discloses an automated system for renting or loaning media such as tape cartridges. The Brady system includes an automated media return station 250 that includes a receptacle 252 for receiving returned cartridges. The customer returns a rented or borrowed cartridge 100 by inserting the cartridge into the receptacle 252. An interrogator 262 disposed within the receptacle 252 then

interrogates an RFID transponder within the cartridge 100 to extract certain information. Thus, Brady requires the user to insert the cartridge back into the system in order to be interrogated, the very thing that the present invention eliminates.

In terms of the elements of claim 1, the Brady system does not disclose "a registration area on the user-accessible surface of said enclosure". Nor does Brady disclose a reader mounted to receive from the memory unit a signal containing the data cartridge-related information "when said surface of the data cartridge is held in engagement with said registration area".

With respect to rejected method claim 10, Brady does not disclose the step of "manually positioning the data cartridge so as to hold said surface of said data cartridge into registered engagement with a registration area on the user-accessible surface".

It is axiomatic that anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) requires that each and every element set forth in the claim must be found in the cited reference either expressly or inherently. Verdegaal Bros., Inc. v. Union Oil Co., 814 F.2d 628, 2 USPQ2d 1051 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Brady falls far short of meeting this stringent standard and accordingly, Brady fails as an anticipatory reference. Nor, it is submitted, does Brady render the independent claims obvious.

Since the dependent claims contain all of the limitations of the independent claims from which they depend, they are likewise submitted to be patentable over the cited reference. In re Fine, 5 USPQ 2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

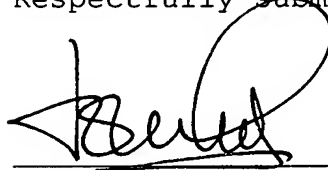
The remaining references have been reviewed but are not believed to be relevant to the claimed subject matter.

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PATENT

In light of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louis A. Mok', written over a horizontal line.

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